

MINUTES - Unapproved

March 10, 2010

SITE: Conway Recreation Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carrie Wasley, Therese Kelly, Susan Bishop, Jonathan Carter, Peter Pha, Betsy Mowry, Andy Trcka and Erick Goodlow

MEMBERS ABSENT: Susan Bishop(excused)

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Hahm, Lindsay Hilger, Cy Kosel, Zach Jorgensen, Gary Korum, Michelle Furrer, Susie Odegard

GUESTS: Bill Driver

1. AGENDA, MINUTES, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair Wasley.
- b. Commissioner Kelly moved to approve the Agenda , 2nd by Commissioner Pha. The vote was 6 to 0 in favor with three Commissioners absent.
- c. Commissioner Kelly moved to approve the February minutes and was 2nd by Commissioner Trcka. The vote was 6 to 0 in favor with three Commissioners absent.
- d. Introductions of all present were made.

2. PUBLIC HEARING

a. Resolution#10-07 District 7 Lease Agreement

Director Hahm provided some clarification on why this resolution was being presented in a public hearing forum, seeing as requirements call for a lease lasting more than 1 year to be presented in a public hearing. Director Hahm indicated that the resolution was proposing a lease with District 7 allowing them to office at the West Minnehaha Recreation center. Commissioner Middleton asked if there had been any issues associated with similar situations in the past, Director Hahm indicated that there had been no previous conflict with this sort of situation.

Commissioner Pha motioned to accept the District 7 Lease Agreement as presented and 2nd by Commissioner Middleton. The vote was 8 to 0 in favor with one Commissioner absent.

3. ACTION ITEMS

a. Resolution #10-03 683 Summit Avenue □ Parkland Diversion

Resolution # 10-03 was withdrawn as Director Hahm indicated that the issue had not yet been resolved and there was not adequate information available to base a decision on. Director Hahm also indicated that the resolution would not be placed on the agenda until further action was required.

b. Resolution #10-05 Street Tree Master Plan □ Cy Kosel, Zach Jorgensen

Director Hahm introduced the resolution providing context within which the plan came into fruition, including the addition of Emerald Ash Borer information within the plan. Director Hahm acknowledged that the plan was made in consideration with the feedback provided by the commission, staff and the public. Mr. Kosel introduced the plan by indicating that the plan has been 2 years in the making, and the current draft before the commission is much different than previous drafts. Mr. Jorgensen described the plan including a basic outline of what forestry management is. Chair Wasley asked if the plan would be posted online and if it answers any questions that may arise. Mr. Kosel confirmed that the plan would be posted online (following presentation to the City Council) and that the intention of the plan is to serve as the main avenue for distributing information. Commissioner Kelly asked for clarification on the diversity of species included in the plan and their prospective locations. Mr. Kosel referred to the strategic plan for expanding tree diversity on city blocks.

Commissioner Kelly motioned to approve the resolution and 2nd by Commissioner Mowry. The vote was 8 to 0 with one Commissioner absent.

c. Resolution #10-06 Yacht Club Lease □ Gary Korum

Mr. Korum provided a brief summary and background on the possible extension of a current lease that the yacht club has with the City. The resolution is asking for an extension of said lease to allow the club to proceed with expansion plans. The extension of the lease would complete a total of 22 years.

Commissioner Goodlow asked if there were any voiced oppositions to extending the lease. Mr. Korum indicated that there were no known oppositions at that time. Chair Wasley inquired about the involvement of the DNR. Mr. Korum indicated that the DNR has been/continues to be involved in the process.

Commissioner Trcka motioned to approve the resolution and 2nd by Commissioner Pha. The vote was 8 to 0 with one Commissioner absent.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Como Regional Park Parking Implementation Plan Presentation □ Michelle Furrer

Ms. Furrer provided a report on the status of the Como Parking Implementation Plan. Her presentation indicated that a project advisory committee has been formed, and every effort has been made to include any possible stakeholders in the situation. Ms. Furrer indicated that the next steps for the plan include an open house and an online public survey. Commissioner Trcka and Chair Wasley provided some concern about a new parking restriction that may affect visitors. Ms. Furrer provided some possible solutions to the situation. Commissioner Trcka inquired about the involvement of MNDOT, Ms. Furrer noted that MNDOT's involvement would be included in the list of issues needing to be addressed in the process.

Organizational Items

a. Elect Officers

Commissioner Kelly nominated Carrie Wasley for Commission Chair and was 2nd by Commissioner Goodlow.

The vote was 8 to 0 with one Commissioner absent.

Commissioner Goodlow nominated Therese Kelly for Commission Vice Chair and was 2nd by Chair Wasley.

The vote was 8 to 0 with one Commissioner absent.

6. DIRECTORS REPORT

a. Water Resource Policy Plan Status

Director Hahm reinforced that one of the purposes of the plan was to develop criteria for good parks stewardship. Director Hahm indicated that the next steps included getting the plan in front of both Watershed districts before it is presented to City Council. Director Hahm noted the suggestion from the Friends of the Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County have been incorporated into the plan. Chair Wasley asked why the plan had not yet been presented to the Ramsey Conservation District. Director Hahm addressed this concern by clarifying that the Watershed districts are much more focused on regulations and enforcement, and as a result have taken priority at present time.

b. Potential Budget Adjustments & Impacts 2010

Director Hahm stated that this year's adjustments are expected to be of the same approximate magnitude as last year's. Director Hahm also gave an update on possible collaborations with libraries and school districts related to services and facilities. Commissioner Middleton inquired about the timeline of the proposed adjustments.

c. Performance Measures and Financial Dashboard

Director Hahm provided a brief presentation and demonstration of the performance measures and financial dashboard functions within the City's intranet.

Director Hahm also extended an open invitation to all Commissioners who are interested in attending the next all-staff meeting March 16th at Harriet Island.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

a. Dog Park □ Commissioner Mowry

Commissioner Mowry indicated that there had been some concern voiced about overuse of downtown Minneapolis dog parks, encouraging the improvement of existing dog parks in that area.

b. Second Shift □ Commissioner Mowry, Commissioner

Commissioner Mowry provided that the Mayor was in attendance at the last meeting and acknowledged the challenges ahead as well as his hope that 2nd Shift activities would continue following his term as mayor.

c. Blooming St. Paul □ Commissioner Middleton

Blooming St. Paul did not meet since the last meeting.

d. Transportation Advisory Board □ Commissioner Trcka

Commissioner Trcka excused himself early and Director Hahm indicated that the Bicycle Advisory Board is currently on hiatus and will continue to meet as an advocacy group.

e. Trees □ Commissioner Goodlow

Commissioner Goodlow acknowledged that the Street Tree Master Plan that was presented includes much of what had been discussed in previous meetings. Commissioner Goodlow also indicated that the committee had recently received a grant for tree maintenance.

f. Ramsey County Conservation District □ Chair Wasley

Chair Wasley informed the group that she would be running for her current position on the committee once again.

g. Phalen □ Keller Master Plan □ Commissioner Carter

Commissioner Carter indicated the current drafts of the Phalen-Keller plans would likely contain few changes. Commissioner Carter also provided some background on discussions involving road revisions.

h. Other reports

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was motioned to adjourn by Commissioner Wasley and 2nd by Commissioner Mowry. The vote was 8 to 0 with one Commissioner absent.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.